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# BETTER PLANTS

*God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden*



VOLUME V

FEBRUARY—MARCH, 1927

NUMBER 1



## Through the Eyes of a Camera at the Weiser Park Nursery

No. 1. New propagating house and potting shed at Weiser Park. Completed December 1, 1926.  
No. 2. Long rows of Perennials at Weiser Park.  
No. 3. Perennials, and more of them, at Weiser Park.  
No. 4. A part of the field of White Phlox at Weiser Park.

No. 5. Note the absence of weeds. Clean cultivation pays.  
No. 6. Weiser Park strain of Aquilegias in the summer of 1926.  
No. 7. A block of miscellaneous Perennials under proper labels.  
No. 8. Pump-house and pond which supplies water for the irrigation system.

## DO PLANTS REVERT?

If an apple tree produced Baldwin apples one year, would you expect it to ever produce any other kind of an apple? If a puppy was born Airedale, would you believe it possible for him to revert mongrel? The same laws of heredity and

In a group of seedlings none of them will be exactly alike or similar to the parents. A certain percentage will resemble one parent and a certain percentage another. A few may be better than the parent; most of them poorer unless both parents happen to be thoroughbred.



inherent qualities apply to both the animal and plant kingdoms. It is no more possible for a red phlox to revert into white, or a pink iris into blue, than for a German shepherd dog to change into a yellow cur. There seems to be a wide-spread impression that it is possible for plants to revert, or change their bloom color as time goes on. The reasons or conditions which have created this belief are as follows:

1. A plant in its dying stages will sometimes throw an abnormal type of bloom or fruit; but should the plant recover its health the blooming and fruiting qualities will come back to normal.

2. Sometimes the soil in which a plant is located contains an unusual supply of some mineral matter which may to a mild extent produce off-shade characteristics. Should the plant be moved to a neutral location it will come back true to type.

In the case of phlox and iris, particularly in old plantings, it is possible after a few years for red phlox to appear among the white, and blue iris to be mixed in with the pinks. This condition is readily explained. During the first blooming season it is possible for the bees to carry pollen from neighboring relatives of another color. Seeds are produced, drop to the ground and a certain percentage of them will reproduce the characteristics of the other parent. If the planting is undisturbed for several years, the seeds will of course grow up into blooming size and the explainable phenomena of "reversion" will result.

So long as cuttings or divisions are taken from a plant, they will remain true to type until they die out entirely. Reproduction from seed is another matter.

## SPRING NOTES

**Sulky Shrubs or Trees** which have not bloomed (notoriously wistaria) for some years, will be rudely but effectively awakened by root pruning. Dig a trench around the trunk (not too close) and cut off the main roots. This causes a new growth of fine roots which will later produce bloom. While the trench is open it is a good plan to partly fill it with manure. Transplanting accomplishes the same purpose, merely because the roots are accidentally trimmed while doing so.

**For Easter**, which this year comes on April 17, you can obtain delightful indoor effects if your season promises to be late. Cut sprays of forsythia, flowering cherries, apples and almonds, cydonias, deutzias, and other spring blooming plants about fifteen days before Easter. Place them in water in a warm and sunny room and they will force themselves into bloom very nicely.

**Moles.** Because moles live mainly on destructive worms and grubs they are welcomed by some gardeners. Others wage open warfare on moles because they are supposed to eat up bulbs, and because they raise unsightly tunnel trails about the lawns. We associate this condition with the fact that Nature is not always balanced. Too many song birds would be a nuisance, yet no song birds would mean a starved human race in a short time. This can be applied to moles. If you must kill some of your colony, use mole



These three pictures show the grounds about the residence of Mr. Charles Raynor, Shanghai, China. Farr's Peonies, Iris and other perennials are thoroughly at home in their oriental surroundings.

## Service that is Satisfactory

The fact that I have ordered continuously from you for fifteen years speaks eloquently for the quality of your products.—J. H. FIEBIG, Milwaukee, Wis.

traps; but they can be badly scared, and sometimes killed, by placing cloth or cotton soaked in carbon disulphide at intervals in their runways and then sealing the breaks. All druggists have this powerful odorant in stock. Carbon disulphide is highly inflammable and explosive, therefore it must be kept away from fire, and used with great caution.

# Unusual Shrubs to Add to Your Garden This Spring



*Malus scheideckeri*

## FLOWERING APPLES

Botanically, these small trees are known as *Malus*. Some varieties are natives of America, while others come from distant lands. In spring the shrubs are literally covered with fragrant flowers. They make extremely ornamental specimens for a lawn or a garden, are entirely hardy, and thrive even under the most trying conditions.

**Malus atrosanguinea.** Flowers deep red, followed by ornamental fruit. 4 to 6 feet, \$3 each.

**Malus floribunda.** The buds are bright red, opening to light pink. Possibly the most free-blooming of all varieties. 4 to 6 feet, \$3 each.

**Malus scheideckeri.** A double-flowering variety with light rose blooms. 4 to 6 feet, \$3 each.

**Malus purpurea.** Light purple, single flowers. 4 to 6 feet, \$3 each.

## IMPORTANT

Prices are F.O.B. our station and do not include transportation charges. Express shipment recommended. Parcel post at actual cost, plus 12 cts. for extra details and service involved. No charge for packing.

## French Hybrid Lilacs

From our great collection of Hybrid Lilacs we have selected ten varieties of outstanding merit. The plants are from 1½ to 2 feet high, strong and bushy, have already bloomed, and are guaranteed true to name. Full descriptions in our 1927 catalogue.

## Classic Collection of Lilacs

The Best Five Lilacs we know of

<b>Ellen Willmott.</b> Best white.....	\$3 75
<b>Leon Gambetta.</b> Best lilac-rose...	3 75
<b>President Fallieres.</b> Best lilac-pink	4 00
<b>Reamur.</b> Best crimson.....	2 75
<b>Decaisne.</b> Best blue.....	2 50

One plant of each for \$15

## Appreciation Collection of Lilacs

Another group of "Best" Lilacs

<b>Berryer.</b> Mauve.....	\$2 75
<b>Charles Joly.</b> Crimson.....	2 75
<b>De Mirabel.</b> Blue.....	2 75
<b>Edith Cavell.</b> White.....	3 50
<b>Lamartine.</b> Pink.....	2 75

One plant of each for \$12

## SPECIAL LIST OF SHRUBS FOR SPRING

<i>Acanthopanax pentaphyllum</i> (Five-leaf Aralia). 3 to 4 ft.	Each	10	\$1 00	\$6 50
<i>Berberis buxifolia</i> (Box Barberry). 12 to 15 in.	75	5 00		
<i>Colutea arborescens</i> (Bladder Senna). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Cornus amomum</i> (Silky Dogwood). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Cornus alba</i> (sibirica) (Coral Dogwood). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Deutzia crenata magnifica</i> (Double White Deutzia). 3 to 4 ft.	1 00	7 50		
<i>Deutzia Lemoinei</i> (Lemoinei's Deutzia). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		



*Deutzia magnifica erecta*

<b>Deutzia magnifica erecta</b> (Erect Deutzia). Specimen plants, see photo. 2 to 3 ft.	Each	10	\$2 00	\$15 00
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> (Slender Deutzia). 12 to 15 in.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora</i> (Peegee Hydrangea). 2 to 3 ft.	1 25	8 50		
<i>Hydrangea arborescens grandiflora</i> (Snow Hill). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	7 50		
<i>Lycium chinense</i> (Chinese Matrimony Vine). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> (Sweet Mockorange). 3 to 4 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Philadelphus, Dame Blanche</i> (New French Hybrid). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Philadelphus, Norma</i> (New French Hybrid). 2 to 3 ft.	1 25	9 00		
<i>Philadelphus, Virginal</i> (Everblooming Mockorange). 2 to 3 ft.	1 50	12 50		
<i>Prunus tomentosa</i> (Nanking Cherry). 4 to 5 ft.	2 00	15 00		
<i>Spiraea, Anthony Waterer</i> (Dwarf Pink Spirea). 1½ to 2 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Spiraea arguta</i> (Garland Spirea). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Spiraea Billardi rosea</i> (Billard's Spirea). 3 to 4 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Spiraea Thunbergi</i> (Thunberg's Spirea). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 50		
<i>Spiraea Vanhouttei</i> (Van Houtte's Spirea). 3 to 4 ft.	1 00	7 50		
<i>Symphoricarpos vulgaris</i> (Coral Berry). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	6 00		
<i>Weigela rosea</i> (Pink Weigela). 3 to 4 ft.	1 00	7 50		
<i>Weigela sessilifolia</i> (Southern Bush Honeysuckle). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	7 50		
<i>Weigela nana variegata</i> (Variegated-leaved Weigela). 2 to 3 ft.	1 00	7 50		



Farr's Lilacs in a local specimen garden



Return Postage Guaranteed by  
FARR NURSERIES CO.  
Weiser Park, Womelsdorf, Pa.

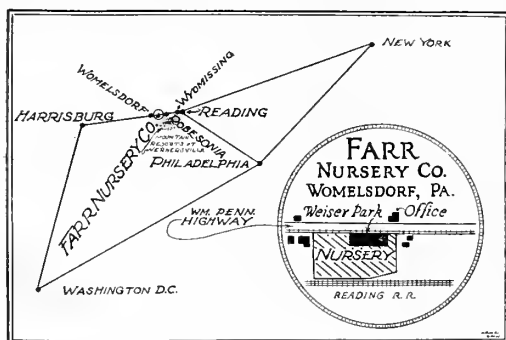
Each time you see the slogan "Better Plants—By Farr," it means that Farr quality, methods, and service have improved since the last time the slogan appeared. It is not meant to imply that Farr plants are better than those of other growers. So long as they are better than the year before, we are, and can be, satisfied. Sooner or later the double meaning will, occasionally, be justified. "We" are three young men, averaging thirty years of age, and the recent purchasers of the Farr Nursery Company from the Farr Estate. "We" are organized and equipped to produce "Better Plants." The late Mr. Farr's collection of plant novelties is our heritage. It is our opportunity to select and propagate new and better varieties. It is our determination to discard all but the best and to concentrate our efforts on these. A choice variety takes up no more room and requires no more attention than a common one.

Keep in touch with Better Plants

## AN EXPLANATION

## BETTER PLANTS

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Visitors welcome at Weiser Park. This map for your convenience



The Farr office on the William Penn Highway, Weiser Park, Womelsdorf, Pa.

### FARR'S BETTER IRIS COLLECTIONS FOR 1927

Full descriptions, and regular prices for the Irises in these collections will be found in the new issue of our general catalogue, "Better Plants by Farr."

#### Culture Collection, 1927

**Cecil Minturn.** Cattleya-rose.  
**Dusky Maid.** Buff and mauve-purple.  
**Her Majesty.** Rose-pink.  
**Inca.** Yellow and plum.  
**Navajo.** Yellow and maroon.  
**Quaker Lady.** Lavender and blue.  
**Roseway.** Reddish pink.  
**Seminole.** Violet-rose and crimson.  
**White Knight.** Snow-white.  
**Zua.** Ruffled crepe white.

These 10 (amounting to \$6.50), for \$5;

Two Collections for \$8

#### Classic Collection, 1927

**Ambassadeur.** Velvety purple-maroon.  
**Ed Michel.** Deep wine-red.  
**Georgia.** Cattleya-rose.  
**Mildred Presby.** White and pansy-violet.

**Queen Caterina.** Pale lavender-violet.  
These 5 (amounting to \$7.75), for \$6;

Two Collections for \$11

### "RAGGEDY 'MUM" COLLECTION

Including a wide range of color, type, and season.

**Alice Howell**  
**Arlington**  
**Captain**  
**Charles**  
**L'Arche**  
**Little Bob**  
**Minta**  
**Mrs. H. Harrison**  
**Mrs. Nellie Kleris**  
**John Townsend**

One plant each of 10 varieties (amounting to \$3.50), for \$3.

Three plants each of 10 varieties (amounting to \$7.50), for \$6.50.

Five plants each of 10 varieties (amounting to \$11), for \$8.

Ten plants each of 10 varieties (amounting to \$22), for \$15.

### VIBURNUM CARLESI

A rare and beautiful new species from China, forming a compact bush of medium size. Terminal flower-buds are formed in autumn, developing in spring into large corymbs of rose-white flowers resembling a bouvardia in size and form. The delicious perfume is more powerful than the jasmine, and when forced in the greenhouse permeates the whole atmosphere.

It is one of the most valuable hardy shrubs introduced in recent years. Safely moved in spring only. Specimen, bushy, 8-year-old-plants, 1½ to 2-ft. grade, at \$7.50 each; 2 to 3-ft. grade at \$10 each; smaller, 4-year, 15-in. plants at \$5 each. All shipments by express, balled and burlapped. All sizes sure to bloom next spring, frosts permitting.

### JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRIES

National sentiment surrounds Cherry-blooming time in Japan, and some of this sentiment has been brought to the United States because of the gift of the Japanese Cherry trees which have brought both beauty and fragrance to the Potomac Basin in Washington.

**Surugada-Nori.** Double; pink. Each  
4 to 6 feet. . . . . \$6 00  
**Benifugen.** Semi-double; bluish.  
6 to 8 feet. . . . . 10 00  
**Hizakura.** Single; pink. 5 to 6 feet. 7 50  
**Naden.** Semi-double; pink. 4 to  
5 feet. . . . . 6 00  
**Amanogawa.** Semi-double; pink.  
5 to 6 feet. . . . . 7 50

**Bertrand H. Farr—Wyomissing Nurseries Company**  
1250 Weiser Park, Womelsdorf, Penna.